

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

NSC-05 (ISO) W

----- 109906

R 191553Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5227

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

SECDEF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

CINC USNAVEUR LONDON

COMSUBLANT NORFOLK

CINCLANT NORFOLK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 20563

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MNUC, GW

SUBJECT: PORT VISIT REQUEST

REF: STATE 284703 DTG 031826Z DEC 75

1. EMBASSY OFFICIALS HAVE HELD LOW-KEY DISCUSSIONS WITH VARIOUS FONOFF AND FMOD WORKING-LEVEL OFFICIALS REGARDING THE FRG DISAPPROVAL OF THE REQUEST FOR THE USS NAUTILUS (SSN 571) TO VISIT BREMERHAVEN. THESE OFFICIALS HAVE STRESSED TO US THAT THE QUESTION IS ONE OF FINANCIAL LIABILITY, NOT OF POLITICAL WILL. THEY THUS FORESEE NO PROBLEMS IN APPROVING NPW VISITS DURING JAN-SEPT WHEN SUFFICIENT FUNDS ARE IN THE DEFENSE BUDGET TO PROVIDE LIABILITY COVERAGE.

2. NONE OF THE OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE MET WERE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT IN DEPTH OR SEEMED TO HAVE A CLEAR IDEA AS TO HOW THE FRG COULD RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OF THE POSTING OF THE LIABILITY BOND REQUIRED BY THE NORTH GERMAN LAENDER OF BREMEN, HAMBURG, LOWER SAXONY AND SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN. ONE OFFICIAL CITED A DRAFT LAW

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UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE BUNDESTAG WHICH MIGHT ADDRESS

THE PROBLEM, BUT HE WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC PROVISIONS AS THEY RELATED TO THE PROBLEM AT HAND.

3. ON DECEMBER 18 WE DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM WITH FONOFF OFFICE DIRECTOR RUMPF, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR QUESTIONS CONCERNING ALLIED FORCES IN THE FRG. RUMPF WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH PL 93-513 AND WE PRESENTED A COPY OF IT TO HIM. IN THINKING OUT LOUD REGARDING POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS, RUMPF SUGGESTED THAT ONE WAY TO PROCEED MIGHT BE TO EXCHANGE NOTES IN WHICH THE US PUBLIC LAW IS CITED. (COMMENT: EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE REGARDING FEASIBILITY OF THIS SUGGESTION.) RUMPF SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO STUDY THE PROBLEM FURTHER. HE INDICATED HE WOULD CONVENE A MEETING IN JANUARY WITH FMOD AND FINANCE MINISTRY OFFICIALS TO SEEK A WAY TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM. RUMPF CONCLUDED BY SAYING HE WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH US THEN TO ADVISE US HOW THE FRG INTENDED TO APPROACH THE PROBLEM.

4. TWO OFFICIALS HAVE STATED THEY FELT BRUSSELS NUCLEAR AGREEMENT, WHEN RATIFIED, MIGHT SATISFY LAENDER FINANCIAL LIABILITY REQUIREMENTS BUT THAT US (AND UK) HAVE STATED RELUCTANCE TO HAVE THIS AGREEMENT APPLY TO WARSHIPS. NATO STANAG 1100 (STANDARDIZATION OF PROCEDURES FOR VISITS TO NATO AND NON-NATO PORTS BY NAVAL SHIPS OF NATO COUNTRIES) IS ALSO PERTINENT, BUT MEMBER NATIONS HAVE BEEN UNABLE IN OVER ONE YEAR TO AGREE ON WHAT PROCEDURES TO INCLUDE FOR NPW VISITS.

5. RECOMMENDATION: IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT WORKING-LEVEL OFFICIALS ARE NOW PROPERLY SEIZED WITH THE PROBLEM, THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS AGAINST MAKING A FORMAL APPROACH AT A HIGHER FOREIGN OFFICE LEVEL AT THIS TIME. SHOULD FRG WORKING-LEVEL OFFICIALS BE UNABLE TO PROVIDE US WITH ANY SATISFACTORY ANSWERS OR INDICATIONS OF PROGRESS IN JANUARY, WE THEN BELIEVE THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR SHOULD RAISE THE MATTER WITH FONOFF POLITICAL DIRECTOR VAN WELL. SHOULD THE PROBLEM REMAIN, CONSIDERATION COULD THEN BE GIVEN TO MAKING A DEMARCHE AT CONFIDENTIAL

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THE STATE SECRETARY OR FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL.
HILLENBRAND.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: USS NAUTILUS, PORT CALLS, PORT CLEARANCES, NUCLEAR POWERED SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BONN20563
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750442-0672
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751225/aaaaavtv.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 284703
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PORT VISIT REQUEST
TAGS: MARR, MNUC, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006